

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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SUBJECT: CAPE VERDE: AFRICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND
THE KHARTOUM CONFERENCE

REF: PRAIA A-13 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH CAPE VERDEAN PRESIDENT
ARISTIDES PEREIRA ON JULY 6, 1978, I RAISED SUBJECT OF
CURRENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS AND KHARTOUM CONFERENCE. IN
ACCORDANCE WITH RECENT INSTRUCTIONS, I OUTLINED CURRENT USG
POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ZAIRE AND WESTERN MILITARY ASSISTANCE
IN SHABA SITUATION, PROPOSED PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE,
ANGOLAN-ZAIRE BORDER SECURITY, AND ROLE OF OAU IN DEALING
WITH AFRICAN PROBLEMS. I URGED GOCV TO WORK ACTIVELY WITH
OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AT THE KHARTOUM OAU MEETING TO
FIND METHODS BY WHICH OAU COULD ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR
RESOLVING VARIOUS CONFLICTS THREATENING SECURITY AND STABILITY
OF AFRICA TODAY.

2. PRESIDENT PEREIRA LISTENED INTENTLY TO PRESENTATION,
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WAS CLEARLY PLEASED BY OUR POSITION RE INTER-AFRICAN
FORCE, AND COMPLIMENTED USG ON CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY
CURRENTLY BEING FOLLOWED.

3. HE THEN GAVE LONGISH EXPOSITION OF GOCV VIEWS ON
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS. HE CONCENTRATED ON PROBLEM OF
FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND FIRMLY STATED THAT PRESENCE OF

FOREIGN TROOPS WAS A DANGER. HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO WIDESPREAD CUBAN PRESENCE, BUT ADDED REFERENCE TO FRENCH AS WELL. PEREIRA SAID THAT THERE IS NOW A CONSENSUS AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS AND GOVERNMENTS THAT FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE MUST BE ELIMINATED.

4. METHOD TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE IS TO FIND WAYS OF OBVIATING NEED FOR SUCH FORCES. MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SECURITY AGREEMENT ON ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN BORDER IS EXAMPLE.

5. PEREIRA THEN GAVE STANDARD EXPLANATION OF LONG-STANDING TIES AND FRIENDSHIP WITH MPLA IN ANGOLA, AND REITERATED CAPE VERDE (AND GUINEA-BISSAU) SUPPORT FOR LUANDA. NEVERTHELESS HE FELT THAT BOTH POLICY INTERESTS COULD AND SHOULD BE COMBINED. HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO, OF COURSE, BUT ALSO WITH OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS, NOTABLY PRESIDENT OF CONGO (B). THEIR INTENTION IS TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO DEAL ACTIVELY WITH THIS AND OTHER PROBLEMS AT THE KHARTOUM CONFERENCE.

6. COMMENT: PERIERA'S REMARKS ARE FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF MY GROWING IMPRESSION THAT MANY GOCV (AND GUINEA-BISSAU) LEADERS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH EXPANDED CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA. HOWEVER AT SAME TIME THEY INSIST ON LEGITIMACY OF NETO-MPLA REGIME IN LUANDA AND THEREFORE OF CUBAN ASSISTANCE (ALTHOUGH EVEN THERE NECESSITY AFTER THREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEARS OF MASSIVE TROOP AID IS UNSETTLING). FOR THIS, IF NO OTHER REASON, GOCV HAS AT LEAST TOLERATED CUBAN TROOP MOVEMENTS THROUGH SAL AIRPORT (SEE SEPTTEL). PEREIRA AND GOCV DO NOT, HOWEVER, LIKE TO VIEW CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AS ESSENTIALLY IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN BIG POWERS, BUT AS LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF DEFENSE OF A GOVERNMENT. (THEY HAVE CAREFULLY STATED THAT ZAIRE GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTICAL RIGHTS.)

7. WHAT GOCV AND GGOB WANT IS TO SEE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND FREE OF SECURITY PROBLEMS. WITH THAT ACHIEVED (AND PROGRESS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA), THEY BELIEVE (HOPE?) NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR CUBAN TROOPS WILL DISAPPEAR, AND THEY WILL ALL GO HOME. AS USUAL, PEREIRA AND FRIENDS ARE TUGGED IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS BY HISTORICAL TIES, FRIENDSHIPS, CURRENT ALLIANCES, AND VAGUE FEARS. ONE RESULT OF THIS CONFUSION IS INCREASING INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS IN OAU.
MARKS

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